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Wisterias. All the species and varieties of *Wisteria* have now been arranged on the trellis near the Forest Hills Road with the exception of the white-flowered form of *W. sinensis*, *W. japonica* and the double-flowered form of *W. venusta*. The first appears to be an exceedingly rare plant; it was found by Fortune in Chinese gardens and first flowered in England in 1849, and Wilson saw occasional plants on the cliffs near Ichang in central China. This plant has never been in the Arboretum. There was a plant in Francis Parkman's garden in Jamaica Plain which flowered in 1880 but has now disappeared; there is said to be a specimen in a garden in Connecticut, and there are two splendid old plants in gardens in Opelousas, Louisiana. It is wanted for the Arboretum collection. *Wisteria japonica* is a smaller plant than the other Asiatic species, with slender stems and small clusters of pale yellow flowers. This plant flowered in the Dana collection at Dosoris, Long Island, in 1879, and once many years ago produced a few flowers in the Arboretum. It is a native of the warmer parts of Japan, and not really hardy in the northern states.

There are two American species native of the middle and southern states; the best known of these, *Wisteria frutescens*, is the more northern plant and is a slender vine with short compact clusters of comparatively small fragrant flowers. It is a less showy plant than the other species but is interesting as the first of the *Wisterias* cultivated in the United States and Europe. There is a white-flowered variety (var. *alba*). A handsomer plant is *Wisteria macrostachya* from the Missouri-Louisiana-Texas region but fortunately perfectly hardy

in Massachusetts. It has much larger flowers in longer racemes than the other American species from which it can be distinguished by its longer calyx-lobes and by the glandular hairs on the calyx and flower-stalks. A fine form of this plant was once common in gardens under the name of *Wisteria magnifica* which has often been incorrectly considered a variety of *W. frutescens*. Another form with blue and white flowers has been described under the name of var. *albo-lilacina*. *W. macrostachya*, although the flowers are less showy than those of the Asiatic species, is a beautiful plant which is too little known in gardens. The American *Wisterias* bloom later than the Asiatic species and prolong the *Wisteria* season for several weeks.

***Wisteria venusta*.** The earliest of the *Wisterias* to flower is *W. venusta*, and although this plant had been sent to the United States and Europe for several years by Japanese nurserymen, nothing was really known about it until Wilson's visit to Japan in 1914 when he found that it was a distinct and undescribed species distinguished by broad clusters, not more than six inches long, of very large flowers on stems an inch and a quarter in length and by the soft hairs which cover the lower surface of the leaves through the season. This plant, although it has long been grown in Japanese gardens where there are very large specimens, is not Japanese, and it is now believed to be an albino form of the blue-flowered *Wisteria* which is cultivated in Peking and other gardens of northern China but which has not yet been described by botanists or brought to this country. If this opinion of the origin of *W. venusta* is correct it should prove hardier than any of the other Asiatic *Wisterias* and perhaps make it possible to extend much further northward the successful cultivation of these plants. The flower-buds of *W. venusta* are well developed in the autumn and it is the easiest of all *Wisterias* to bring into bloom in the winter by artificial heat. There is a form with double flowers (var. *plena*) which is occasionally cultivated by Japanese florists and is known in England.

Wisteria sinensis grows naturally in central and southern China, and is the common *Wisteria* in the gardens of the United States and one of the most vigorous of the hardy climbing plants of the northern hemisphere. In New England country gardens the flower-buds are often killed by cold, and it grows better on city houses where it is more protected than in the country. In the southern states, where it often grows to the tops of trees more than a hundred feet high, and in California it is seen in its greatest magnificence. The white-flowered form is the only variety of this plant which has yet been found.

***Wisteria floribunda*.** This is the common Japanese *Wisteria* and is found growing naturally only in the central and southern parts of that country. It has smaller and more fragrant flowers in narrower and more open clusters than the Chinese plant, and blooms here ten or twelve days later. This *Wisteria* is one of the most generally cultivated garden plants in Japan, and Wilson found in a garden at Kasukabe a plant which extended over a bamboo arbor one-sixth of an acre in extent and was covered with flower-clusters which measured up to sixty-four inches in length. This garden form with the long clusters has been distinguished as variety *macrobotrys*. On wild plants the flower-clusters are sometimes not more than ten inches long, and in

their length this plant varies greatly. There is a beautiful form with pure white flowers (var. *alba*) which is becoming common in this country, another with flowers which are pure pink or white more or less tinged with pink (var. *rosea*), and another with leaves blotched with yellow (var. *variegata*). There is also a double-flowered form (var. *violacea plena*) which was first sent to this country in 1862 and first flowered here in the garden of Francis Parkman at Jamaica Plain. Fortunately this form blooms very rarely, for the flowers are ugly, something which cannot be said of any other Wisteria. Although the Japanese Wisteria is usually called *W. multijuga* in gardens, the oldest and correct name for it is *W. floribunda*.

Early-flowering Diervillas or Weigelas. The earliest of these plants to flower in the Arboretum, and perhaps the handsomest of all the species, varieties and hybrids of *Diervilla* known in gardens, is the Korean form of *D. florida* discovered and introduced by Mr. Jack to which the varietal name *venusta* has been given. It is already a shrub here five feet tall and three or four feet through, and every spring is completely covered with dense clusters of rosy-pink flowers from an inch and a half to two inches in length. It is perfectly hardy, which cannot be said of all the garden Weigelas; it grows rapidly, and no shrub can bear larger crops of flowers. There is a plant now in full bloom on Hickory Path near the Pecan tree, and another in the Shrub Collection at the end of the *Diervilla* Collection near the Cherry-trees.

***Diervilla praecox*.** This name has been given to an early-flowering plant which has been sent from Japan to Europe but is not a native of Japan and is not known in its wild state, although it is probably a form of *Diervilla florida* from northern China. In the hands of Lemoine, the French hybridizer, a number of beautiful hybrids or varieties have been produced and are now in flower in the Shrub Collection. Among the handsomest of these are *Seduction* with red flowers, *Espérance* with pink flowers, *Avant Garde* with pale rose flowers, *Vestale* with white flowers, *Gracieux* with pink and white flowers, *Floreal* with rose-colored flowers, *Conquérant* with rose-colored flowers, and *Fleur de Mai* with pink flowers. These are less known but hardier and better garden plants here than many of the hybrid Weigelas more commonly cultivated.

***Rosa Hugonis*.** Judging by its appearance this year, no plant sent from China to our northern gardens equals this Rose in grace and beauty. The long gracefully arching branches are so thickly covered with flowers from end to end that the petals touch and make a continuous band of pale yellow. The individual flowers are about two and a half inches in diameter and have a delicate perfume; the leaves are small and pale green. It is a hardy and fast-growing shrub, and has every appearance of becoming a large plant. Perhaps no other single-flowered Rose is so beautiful, although the Cherokee Rose, another Chinese Rose (*R. laevigata*) naturalized in the southern states, has handsomer foliage and larger flowers, but the flowers of the Cherokee Rose are white and are not produced in such profusion, and in the north the Cherokee Rose can only be grown under glass. *Rosa Hugonis* and *R. omeiensis*, a tall-growing, white-flowered species from Western China, are the earliest Roses to flower in the Arboretum this year.

Rosa Ecae. This is another yellow-flowered Rose which is blooming well this year in the Shrub Collection and is only a little later than *R. Hugonis*. It is a spiny shrub with small leaves and pale yellow flowers not much more than an inch and a quarter in diameter. It is a native of Afghanistan where it is common on dry mountain ridges, and of Samarkand. Much less beautiful than *R. Hugonis*, it is worth a place in a collection of Roses, for species with yellow flowers which are hardy in this climate are few in number.

Syringa Koehneana. This Lilac, which flowered for the first time in the Arboretum two years ago, is bearing a much more abundant crop of flowers than it has produced here before. It is a native of northern Korea, and is a very large, vigorous and hardy shrub with slender branches which bend under the broad open clusters of small rose-colored or pink flowers with long, slender corolla-tubes and not much perfume. The leaves are large, pointed and covered below with a coating of pale hairs. While it is not one of the handsomest Lilacs, it is an interesting addition to the number of species of this genus which can be successfully grown here. There are two large specimens, which have been in the Arboretum since 1902, on the bank next to the Forsythias at the lower end of the Lilac Collection.

Aesculus Briotii. This is a form of the so-called red-flowered hybrid Horsechestnut (*Aesculus carnea*) and is now in bloom in the Aesculus Collection on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road beyond the Linden Group. It is the most brilliantly colored of all the forms of *Aesculus carnea* and few trees hardy in this climate bear such showy flowers. This tree begins to bloom when not more than eight or ten feet high; it is perfectly hardy and should be seen more generally in American gardens.

Aesculus georgiana. This shrub, which is a native of central Georgia, is flowering freely again this spring and is now covered with its compact clusters of yellow and rose-colored flowers. This interesting and handsome shrub is able, apparently, to support perfectly the New England climate, and it is one of the handsomest of American shrubs made known and introduced into cultivation by the Arboretum.

Aesculus discolor. The scarlet-flowered variety (var. *mollis*) of this Buckeye is blooming again this spring in the Arboretum, and there now seems little doubt that this southern shrub, or small tree, can adapt itself to New England conditions. On the typical *Aesculus discolor* the flowers have a red calyx and yellow petals generally more or less flushed with rose. It is a much less common plant than the variety *mollis* on which both the calyx and the corolla are bright red. The variety is a common plant in Georgia and Alabama, and ranges west to south-eastern Missouri and to eastern Texas. *Aesculus discolor* and its varieties can be distinguished from other American Buckeyes by the soft covering of pale down on the lower surface of the leaflets, and from all species of the genus except *Aesculus californica* by the pale orange-brown color of the seeds. *Aesculus discolor*, var. *mollis* is an important addition to the list of shrubs with brilliant flowers which can be successfully cultivated in northern gardens.